

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OF THE 40TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE THIRD  
SESSION (1983-1985) OF THE FOURTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD

AT 14:00 hrs

ON FRIDAY 1985-01-18

IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GEORGETOWN

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Speaker (1)

- \* Cde. Sase Narain, O.R., J.P., M.P., Speaker of the National Assembly

Members of the Government - People's National Congress (61)

Prime Minister (1)

Cde. H.D. Hoyte, S.C., M.P., Prime Minister

Other Vice-President and First Deputy Prime Minister (1)

Cde. H. Green, M.P., Vice-President, Social Infrastructure and First Deputy Prime Minister

Other Vice-Presidents and Deputy Prime Ministers (2)

- \* Cde. Dr. M. Shahabuddeen, O.R., S.C., M.P., Vice-President, Deputy Prime Minister and Attorney General
- Cde. R. Chandisingh, M.P., Vice-President, National Development and Deputy Prime Minister

Other Deputy Prime Minister (1)

- \* Cde. W.A.L.H. Parris, C.C.H., M.P., Deputy Prime Minister, Planning

Senior Minister (8)

- \* Cde. R.E. Jackson, M.P., Minister of Foreign Affairs
- \* Cde. J.R. Thomas, M.P., Minister of Home Affairs
- Cde. R.H.O. Corbin, M.P., Minister of National Mobilisation
- Cde. H. Rashid, M.P., Minister of Energy and Mines
- \* Cde. C.B. Greenidge, M.P., Minister of Finance
- Cde. Sallahuddin, M.P., Minister of Forestry
- Cde. Dr. R.A. Van West-Charles, M.P., Minister of Health and Public Welfare
- \* Cde. M.L. Parris, M.P., Minister of Education

Ministers (6)

- Cde. Urmia Johnson, M.P., Minister within the Ministry of National Development
- Cde. Yvonne V. Harewood-Benn, M.P., Minister within the Ministry of Education
- \* Cde. K.W.E. Denny, M.P., Minister of Manpower and Co-operatives
- Cde. R.C. Fredericks, A.A., M.P., Minister of Youth and Sport within the Ministry of Education
- Cde. S. Prashad, M.P., Minister of Transport within the Vice-Presidency of Social Infrastructure
- \* Cde. Dr. S.P. DaSilva, M.P., Minister within the Ministry of Agriculture

\*Non-elected Member

Ministers of State (2)

- Cde. M. Corrica, M.P., Minister of State within the Ministry of Internal Trade and Consumer Protection  
 Cde. H.L.B. Singh, M.S., M.P., Minister of State within the Ministry of Regional Development (Absent-on leave)

Parliamentary Secretaries (3)

- Cde. Agnes W. Bend-Kirton-Holder, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Housing, within the Ministry of Health and Public Welfare  
 Cde. D.A.N. Ainsworth, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Youth  
 Cde. B. Bhaggan, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, National Development

Government Chief Whip (1)

- Cde. Bidiawattie Tiwari, M.P., Government Chief Whip

Other Members (24)

- Cde. O.E. Clarke, M.P.  
 Cde. R.E. Williams, M.P.  
 Cde. J.P. Chowritmootoo, J.P., M.P.  
 Cde. Philomena A. Rayman, M.P.  
 Cde. J.B. Caldeira, M.P.  
 Cde. E.H.A. Fowler, M.P.  
 Cde. Joyce Gill-Mingo, M.P.  
 Cde. M. Ally, M.P.  
 Cde. M. Armogan, M.S., J.P., M.P.  
 Cde. Bissoondai Beniprashad, M.P.  
 Cde. A.A. Chin, M.P.  
 Cde. Elaine B. Davidson, M.P.  
 Cde. H. Doobay, M.P.  
 Cde. A.B. Felix, M.P.  
 Cde. Patricia Fredericks, M.P.  
 Cde. E.F. Gilbert, M.P.  
 Cde. A. McRae, M.P.  
 Cde. Joyce M. Munroe, J.P., M.P.  
 Cde. R.N. Primo, M.P.  
 Cde. C.G. Sharma, J.P., M.P. (Absent)  
 Cde. C Vandenburg, M.P.  
 Cde. Edwina Melville, M.P.  
 Cde. Y. Khan, M.P.

(One seat vacant)

Members from the National Congress of Local Democratic Organs (2)

- Cde. R. Bishop, M.S., M.P. (Absent -on leave)  
 Cde. Bhagmatee Latchminarayan, M.P.

Members from the Regional Democratic Councils (10)

- Cde. Dianne Abraham, M.P. (Region No. 8 - Potaro/Siparuni)(Absent)  
 Cde. W. Bipat, J.P., M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)  
 Cde. Nellie R. Charles, M.P. (Region No. 7 - Cuyuni/Mazaruni)(Absent-on leave)  
 Cde. I. Chowritmootoo, M.P. (Region No. 6 - East Berbice/Corentyne)  
 Cde. D. Hinds, M.P. (Region No. 10 - Upper Demerara/Berbice)  
 Cde. K.V. Jairam, M.P. (Region No. 2 - Pomeroon/Supenaam)  
 Cde. K.N. Jones, M.P. (Region No. 1 - Barima/Waini)  
 Cde. H.I. London, M.S., M.P.(Region No. 5 - Mahaica/Berbice)  
 Cde. Cora A. Singh, M.P. (Region No. 3 - Essequibo Islands/West Demerara)  
 (Vacant) (Region No. 9 - Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo)

Members of the Minority (12)

(i) People's Progressive Party (10)

Minority Leader (1)

Cde. Dr. C. Jagan, M.P., Minority Leader

Deputy Speaker (1)

Cde. Ram Karra, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly

Other Members (8)

Cde. Janet Jagan M.P. (Absent- on leave)

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud, J.P., M.P., Minority Chief Whip

Cde. N. Persaud, M.P.

Cde. C.C. Collymore, M.P.

Cde. S.F. Mohamed, M.P.

Cde. I. Basir, M.P.

Cde. C.C. Belgrave, M.P.

Cde. H. Nokta, M.P.

(ii) United Force (2)

Mr. M.F. Singh, C.C.H., J.P., M.P.

Mr. M.A. Abraham, M.P.

OFFICERS

Cde. F.A. Narain, A.A., Clerk of the National Assembly

Cde. M.B. Henry, Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

(i) New Year Greetings

As that was the first sitting for the year, the Speaker took the opportunity of welcoming back Members. He also extended good wishes to them for 1985.

(ii) Leave

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to:

- (a) Cde. H.L.B. Singh  
and

Cde. Nellie Charles for that day's sitting;

- (b) Cde. Bishop up to 1985-01-23, and

- (c) Cde. Janet Jagan up to 1985-03-10.

(iii) Broadcast of Budget

The Speaker informed Members that, in accordance with the usual practice, he had given permission to the Guyana Broadcasting Corporation to broadcast live the Budget presentation to be made by the Minister of Finance at that sitting. The Corporation had also been given permission to record for subsequent broadcasts speeches which would be made by other Members of the Assembly at the other sittings

during the Budget debate. Such subsequent broadcasts would, however, have to be made in accordance with the approved practice, that is, the time used for the broadcast of speeches would have to be allotted to the Members of the Assembly in the proportion to the Party representation in the Assembly.

(iv) Public Address System

The Speaker said that permission had also been given for the installation as usual of a public address system for the budget presentation.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS. ETC.

(1) By the Speaker (Chairman of the Committee of Selection):

Minutes of the Second Meeting of the Committee of Selection held on Monday 1984-12-10.

(PARL: 5/5<sup>VII</sup>)(Circulated)

(2) By the Prime Minister:

(i) Annual Report and Accounts of the Guyana Liquor Corporation for the year 1983.

(OPM: 20/1/2/1/1)(Circulated)

(ii) Report and Audited Accounts of the Guyana Gold Board for the year ended 31st December, 1983.

(OPM: 20/1/2/1/1) (Circulated)

(3) By the Minister of Finance:

(i) Estimates of the Revenues and Expenditure for the financial year 1985, together with Central Government Development Programme Capital Projects Profile for 1985.

(Circulated)

(ii) Constitutional Offices (Remuneration of Holders) (No. 2) Order 1984 (No. 63) , made under section 5 of the Constitutional Offices (Remuneration of Holders) Act, Chapter 27:11, on 20th December, 1984, and published in the Gazette on 22nd December, 1984.

(Circulated)

(iii) Ministers, Members of the National Assembly and Special Offices (Emoluments) Order (No. 2) 1984 (No. 65), made under section 8 of the Ministers, Members of the National Assembly and Special Offices (Emoluments) Act, Chapter 1:07, on 20th December, 1984, and published in the Gazette on 22nd December, 1984.

(Circulated)

(iv) Customs Duties (Amendment) Order 1984 (No. 66), made under section 8 of the Customs Act, Chapter 82:01, on 19th December, 1984, and published in the Gazette on 29th December, 1984.

(ST: 34/2/1/9<sup>III</sup>)(Circulated)

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- (v) Consumption Tax (Amendment) Order 1984 (No. 68), made under section 4 of the Consumption Tax Act, Chapter 80:02, on 11th December, 1984, and published in the Gazette on 29th December, 1984.

(ST: 34/2/1/9<sup>III</sup>)(Circulated)

- (vi) Consumption Tax (Amendment) Regulations 1984(No. 13), made under section 22 of the Consumption Tax Act, Chapter 80:02, on 19th December, 1984, and published in the Gazette on 29th December, 1984.

(ST: 34/2/1/9<sup>III</sup>)(Circulated)

- (vii) Caribbean Community (Amendment) Regulations 1984 (No. 14), made under section 15(8) of the Customs Act, Chapter 82:01, on 19th December, 1984, and published in the Gazette on 29th December, 1984.

(ST: 34/2/1/9<sup>III</sup>)(Circulated)

- (viii) Customs Duties (Amendment) Order 1985 (No. 1), made under section 8 of the Customs Act, Chapter 82:01, on 9th January, 1985, and published in the Gazette on 12th January, 1985.

(ST: 34/2/1/9<sup>III TJ</sup>)(Circulated)

- (ix) Roads (Amendment) Regulations 1985 (No. 1), made under section 25 of the Roads Act, Chapter 51:01, on 14th January, 1985, and published in the Gazette on 18th January, 1985.

(ST: 34/2/13)(Circulated)

- (x) Roads (Corentyne)(Amendment) Regulations 1985 (No. 2), made under section 25 of the Roads Act, Chapter 51:01, on 14th January, 1985, and published in the Gazette on 18th January, 1985.

(ST: 34/2/13)(Circulated)

MOTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OR SITTINGS OF THE ASSEMBLY AND MOVED BY A MINISTER

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS NOS. 9(2) AND 32 (9)

On a motion by the Minister of Home Affairs, paragraph (2) of Standing Order No. 9 and paragraphs (9) of Standing Order No. 32 were suspended to enable the Minister of Finance, to complete the reading of the Budget Speech uninterrupted and to enable the sitting to continue beyond 16:00 hrs without being suspended, if necessary.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Presentation and First Reading

- (1) MAHAICA-MAHAICONY-ABARY AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1985 - Bill No. 3/1985 published 1985-01-05

The Prime Minister, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:-

A Bill intituled An Act to amend the Mahaica-Mahaicony-Abary Agricultural Development Authority Act 1977.

2) The Minister of Finance, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bills which were read the first time:-

- (2) INSURANCE ENACTMENTS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1985 - Bill No. 1/1985  
published on 1985-01-05

A Bill intituled An Act to amend the Motor Vehicles Insurance (Third Party Risks) Act and the Insurance Act to bring the former Act under the administration of the latter.

- (3) CONSUMPTION TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL 1985 - Bill No. 2/1985  
published on 1985-01-05

A Bill intituled An Act to amend the Consumption Tax Act.

- (4) MISCELLANEOUS ENACTMENTS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1985 - Bill No. 4/1985  
published 1985-01-18

A Bill intituled An Act to amend certain enactments.

- (5) MOTOR VEHICLES AND ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) BILL 1985 -  
Bill No. 5/1985 published 1985-01-18

The Minister of Home Affairs, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:-

A Bill intituled An Act to amend the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTION

APPROVAL OF ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE FOR 1985

In accordance with article 171 (2) of the Constitution, the Minister of Finance signified Cabinet's recommendation and moved the motion for the approval of the Estimates of Expenditure for 1985. (See Appendix).

After the motion was proposed, the Minister of Finance named Monday 1985-01-28 as the day for the debate on the motion.

ADJOURNMENT

At 16:40 hrs on a motion by the Minister of Home Affairs, the Assembly was adjourned to 14:00 hrs on Monday 1985-01-28.

*S. Narain*  
S. Narain  
Speaker

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,  
Public Buildings,  
Georgetown.  
1985-01-22

85-01-22

MOTION BY THE MINISTER OF FINANCE

WHEREAS the Constitution of Guyana requires that estimates of the revenue and expenditure of Guyana for any financial year should be laid before the National Assembly;

AND WHEREAS the Constitution also provides that when the estimates of expenditure have been approved by the Assembly an Appropriation Bill shall be introduced in the Assembly providing for the issue from the Consolidated Fund of the sums necessary to meet that expenditure;

AND WHEREAS estimates of revenues and expenditure of Guyana for the financial year 1985 have been prepared and laid before the Assembly on 1985-01-18;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly approves the estimates of expenditure for the financial year 1985, of a total sum of eleven hundred and fifty seven million, one hundred and twenty-one thousand dollars (\$1,157,121,000) net of appropriation-in-aid, and excluding four hundred million, four hundred and seventy-nine thousand dollars (\$400,479,000) which is chargeable by law, as detailed therein and summarized in the undermentioned schedule, and agree that it is expedient to amend the law and to make further provision in respect of finance.

Carl B. Greenidge  
Minister of Finance

MINISTRY OF FINANCE

1985-01-18